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Message Text

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21
ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 L-01 H-01 INR-05 PM-03

PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-01

ACDA-10 SAM-01 /055 W
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R 141003Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1337
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0273

LIMDIS

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/RA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PFOR UN US
SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: CONVERSATION WITH QATARI UN PERMREP JAMAL

REF: DOHA 0179, DOHA 0147, DOHA 0034, STATE 37591

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE DISCUSSED US VIEWS ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY WITH GOQ UN PERMREP JAMAL. HIS COMMENTS ARE INDICATIVE THAT GOQ WILL CONTINUE TO COMFORM PASSIVELY TO ARAB BLOC CONSENSUS. JAMAL SEEMED NONPLUSSED BY OUR CAUTIONING THAT US WOULD BE KEEPING CLOSE SCORE ON VOTING ON ISSUES WHICH TOUCHED OUR VITAL INTERESTS AND THAT PERFORMANCE WOULD IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE CRITICIZED OUR EXPECTATIONS OF SUPPORT IN UN FORUM FROM GOQ AND OTHER ARABS IN LIGHT OF US IMPLACABLE OPPOSITION
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TO ARABS ON PALESTINIAN ISSUES. JAMAL INDICATED PERSONAL

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SENSITIVITY ON LOW-LEVEL TREATMENT ACCORDED HIM BY USUN. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MARCH 13 DISCUSSION WITH GOVT OF QATAR UN PERMREP AMB JASIM JAMAL, WHO PRESENTLY IN DOHA ON CONSULTATIONS, AMB OUTLINED US VIEWS ON CONDUCT OF MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY. GOQ FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF INTL ORG AFFS FAHD AL KAWARI ALSO PRESENT DURING CONVERSATION. WE EMPHASIZED US CONCERN OVER DAMAGE CAUSED UN BY IRRESPONSIBLE BLOC VOTING. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE STRESSED THAT US WOULD BE WATCHING CLOSELY HOW COUNTRIES VOTED ON ISSUES WHICH AFFECTED ITS VITAL INTERESTS AND THAT VOTING BEHAVIOR ON SUCH ISSUES WOULD DIRECTLY IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT WE TOUCHED ON SUCH ISSUES AS KOREAN QUESTION AND PUERTO RICO. WE URGED THAT GOQ STAND ON ITS OWN FEET AND VOTE ITS TRUE FEELINGS ON ISSUES RATHER THAN SUBMERGE ITSELF, PARTICULARLY IN ARAB BLOC WHERE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT RADICAL VOICES DROWN OUT THOSE OF MODERATES LIKE GOQ.

3. JAMAL'S RESPONSES CONFIRMED OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING ON HOW QATAR CAN BE EXPECTED TO PERFORM IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS (DOHA REFTELS). HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD WIDE DISCRETION AS MAN-ON-SCENE AS LONG AS HE CONFORMED TO CONSENSUS WITHIN ARAB BLOC. JAMALA REPEATEDLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOQ WOULD NOT RPT NOT BREAK RANKS WITH ARAB BLOC CONSENSUS, EVEN WHEN MORE AGGRESSIVE RADICALS BULLIED OTHERS INTO TAKING POSITIONS WHICH THEY DID NOT NECESSARILY FAVOR AS INDIVIDUALS. HE ADVISED THAT US LEAN ON THE "BIG BOYS" WITHIN THE ARAB GROUP, I.E. EGYPT, SYRIA, ALGERIA AND SAUDI ARABIA, WITH WHOM HE SAID WE SHOULD HAVE DETERMINING INFLUENCE, RATHER THAN THE "LITTLE GUYS" LIKE QATAR WHO CAN NEVER BE, NOR WISH TO BE, ANYTHING MORE THAN FOLLOWERS. RE SAUDI ARABIA, JAMAL ASSERTED THAT DESPITE ITS EXTREMELY CLOSE TIES WITH SAG, GOQ WOULD NOT RPT NOT STAND WITH SAUDIS WHEN THEY WERE ISOLATED FROM ARAB CONSENSUS.

4. DURING DISCUSSION ON QUESTIONS WHICH US REGARDS AS AFFECTING ITS VITAL INTERESTS, JAMAL OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS STRICTLY A BACK-SCRATCHING SITUATION WHICH USUALLY LEFT ARABS ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF FENCE FROM U.S., SINCE IN UN FORUM US WAS IMPLACABLE OPPONENT OF CENTRAL AND VITAL ARAB INTERESTS ON PALESTINE QUESTION. JAMAL ASKED HOW WE COULD EXPECT ARAB SUPPORT ON WHAT WE CONFIDENTIAL

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REGARDED
AS OUR VITAL CONCERNS WHEN US OFTEN STOOD ALONE AGAINST "ARAB CAUSE" ISSUES. JAMAL BRUSHED ASIDE ARGUENTS THAT UN VOTES NOT-WITHSTANDING, US WAS ONLY POWER TO HAVE ADVANCED MID EAST CRISIS TOWARD EQUITABLE SOLUTION.

5. WE ASKED JAMAL WHETHER HE CONSIDERED HIS RELATIONS WITH US MISSION IN NY AS SATISFACTORY, NOTING FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMPLAINT

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THAT WE IGNORED QATARI REPS IN NY. JAMAL REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID HAVE FRIENDLY AND REGULAR CONTACTS WITH US MISSION, THESE WERE USUALLY AT A LOW LEVEL. HE CLEARLY INDICATED HIS RESENTMENT

THAT HIS STATUS AS AN AMBASSADOR OF SOME EXPERIENCE AND TENURE IN NY WAS APPARENTLY NOT RECOGNIZED BY HIS US COUNTERPARTS.

6. COMMENT: JAMAL'S COMMENTS ARE INDICATIVE THAT GOQ WILL CONTINUE ITS HEADS-DOWN PERFORMANCE IN UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, AND THAT IT WIL CONTINUE TO THROW ITS LOT PASSIVELY WITH ARAB BLOC CONSENSUS, US VIEWS NOTWITHSTANDING. JAMAL WAS NONPLUSSED BY OUR CAUTIONING THAT US WOULD BE KEEPING SCORE ON VOTING ON VITAL ISSUES AND WOULD FACTOR THIS DIRECTLY INTO BILATERAL RELATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE USUN TAKING NOTE OF JAMAL'S SENSITIVITY ABOUT HIS RANK, SINCE THIS OBVIOUSLY HAS SOME BEARING ON HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD US INTERESTS.
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